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# THE GREEN DEMON

and Other Sufi Tales



## **Amar Chitra Katha**

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## **THE GREEN DEMON and Other Sufi Tales**

While the word *Sufi* gained currency only in recent centuries, these seekers of TRUTH have been in existence for a much longer period.

A wise teacher is one whose goal is to teach a student *how* to learn and not merely *what* to learn. He helps the student to discover and fulfil his own potential. And this is what the true Sufi Master aspires to do — to help the seeker discover and fulfil his potential for supreme consciousness.

The seeker must see mankind which includes himself and the human predicament as they really are. This is the first step towards his goal. And one of the many tools the Sufi master uses to create and increase awareness in the seeker is the illustrative tale. While many of the tales that have come down to us might appear cryptic, sometimes even nonsensical, their import is clear to those in whom a certain degree of awareness has already been attained. The stories adapted in this Chitra Katha for our young readers, however, are quite explicit in their import.

It is interesting to know that the development of Sufi thought and practices have been influenced, directly and indirectly, by both Upanishadic and Buddhist philosophy.

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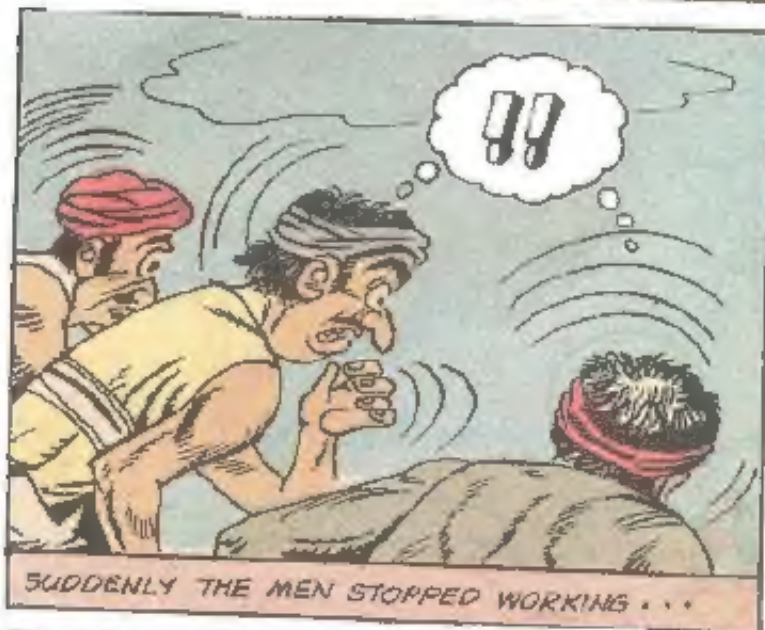




## THE GREEN DEMON



A YOUNG MAN WANDERED INTO A FIELD WHERE A GROUP OF MEN WERE HARVESTING WHEAT.



SUDDENLY THE MEN STOPPED WORKING...



... AND FLED FROM THE FIELD.

RUN, SIR! THERE IS A DEMON IN THE FIELD.

WHERE?



RIGHT THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIELD!



THE MAN RAN TO THE SPOT.



HE PULLED OUT A KNIFE FROM HIS WAISTBAND.

DON'T BE AFRAID.  
I'LL KILL YOUR  
DEMON FOR YOU.



HE CUT THE MELON OFF ITS STALK AND HELD IT IN ONE HAND.



THEN TO THE HORROR OF THE PEASANTS ...



...HE CUT OFF A SLICE...



...AND BITING INTO IT, WALKED TOWARDS THEM.



THE MEN WHO FEARED  
THE UNKNOWN FRUIT COULD  
BE QUITE DARING WHEN IT  
CAME TO ONE OF THEIR  
KIND.



THEY'RE MAD!  
STARK, STARK  
MAD!



AND HE FLED FROM THE SCENE.





WHEN THE NEXT HARVEST SEASON  
CAME ROUND, ANOTHER MELON WAS  
SPOTTED.

IT'S COME AGAIN!  
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR  
LIVES!



WHAT ARE YOU  
RUNNING AWAY  
FROM, MY  
FRIENDS?

A  
DEMON,  
SIR.



A  
DEMON?  
WHERE?

IT'S COMING  
OUT OF THE  
EARTH IN THE  
MIDDLE OF  
OUR FIELD,  
SIR.



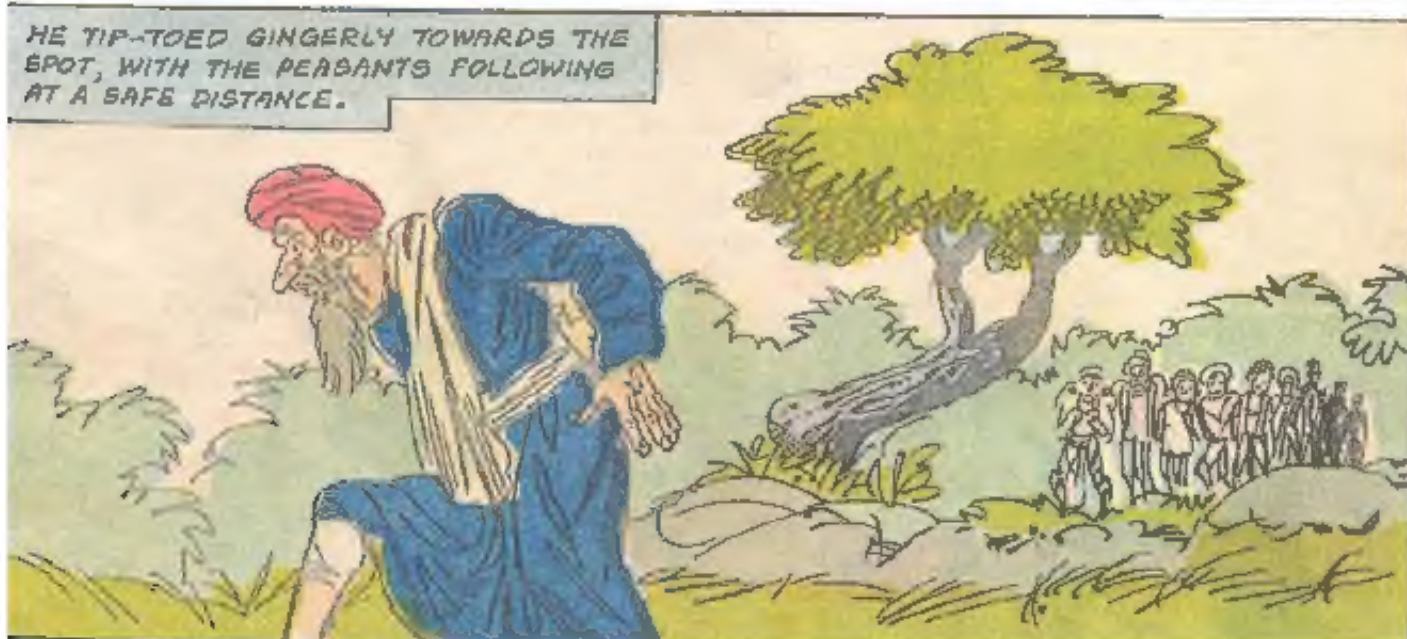
CAN YOU  
DESCRIBE  
IT TO ME?

IT HAS A LARGE,  
ROUND, GREEN  
HEAD AND...

... AND LONG,  
LONG ARMS,  
SIR.













FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, HE DID NOTHING BUT OBSERVE THE MELON. THEN —

IT HAS NOT MOVED IN ALL THESE DAYS.



I AM GOING TO TOUCH IT TODAY.

BE CAREFUL, SIR.



IT DOESN'T MOVE EVEN WHEN HE TOUCHES IT.

IT COULDN'T BE A DEMON. THEN WHAT IS IT?



SOON, ONE BY ONE, THE PEASANTS CAME FORWARD AND TOUCHED THE MELON.

IT'S HARMLESS. ABSOLUTELY HARMLESS!



IT'S NOT A DEMON. BUT IF IT'S NOT A DEMON, WHY HAS IT COME HERE?

IT HAS NOT COME HERE.

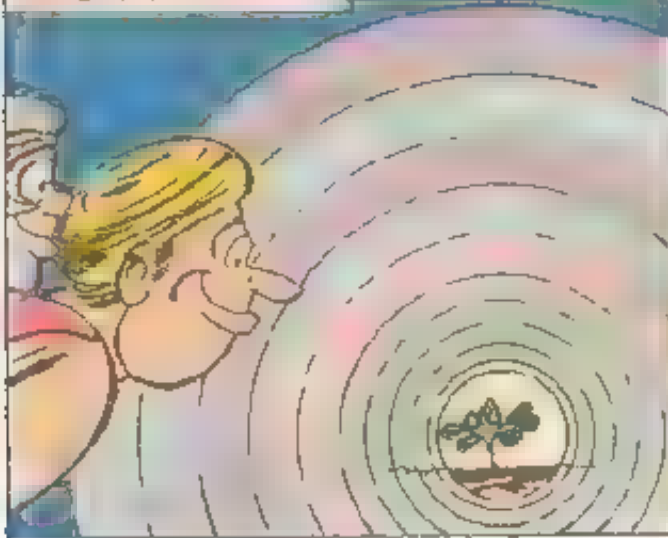








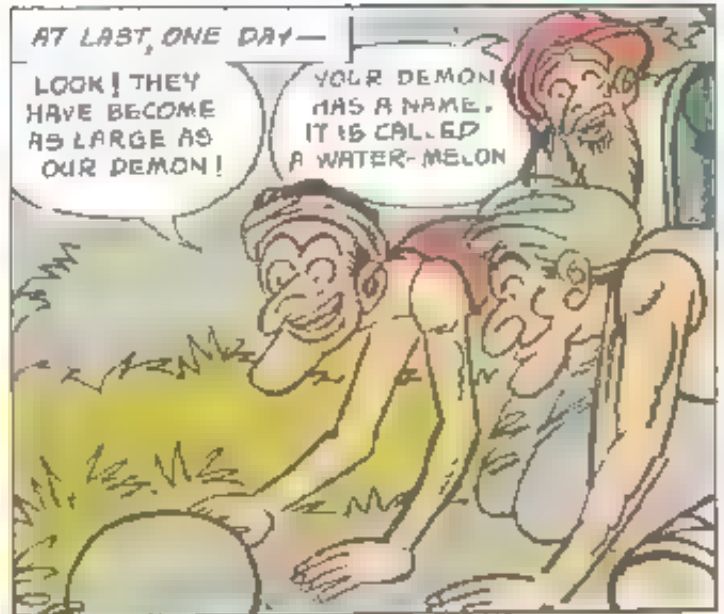
THEY PATIENTLY WATCHED THE SEEDS  
SPROUT AND GROW.



AT LAST, ONE DAY—

LOOK! THEY  
HAVE BECOME  
AS LARGE AS  
OUR DEMON!

YOUR DEMON  
HAS A NAME.  
IT IS CALLED  
A WATER-MELON



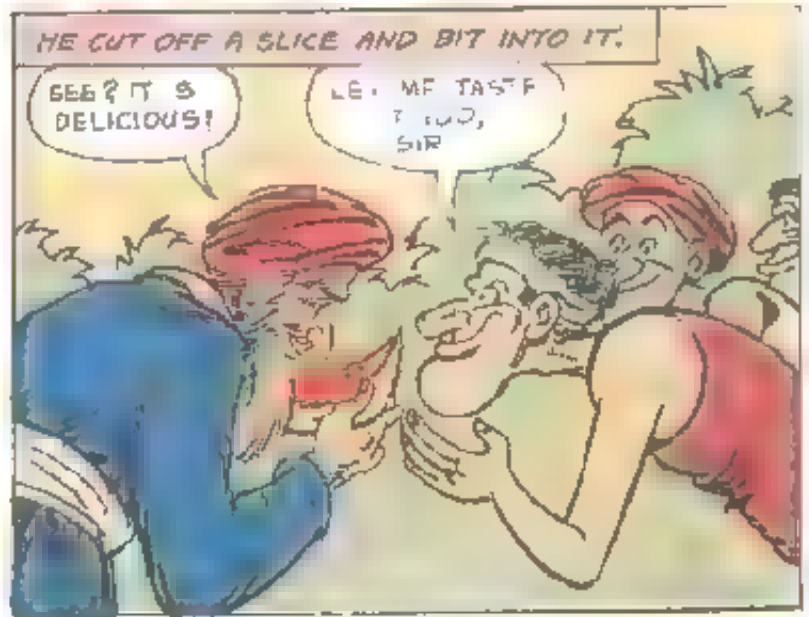
AND IT CAN  
SAFELY BE  
EATEN



HE CUT OFF A SLICE AND BIT INTO IT.

SEE? IT IS  
DELICIOUS!

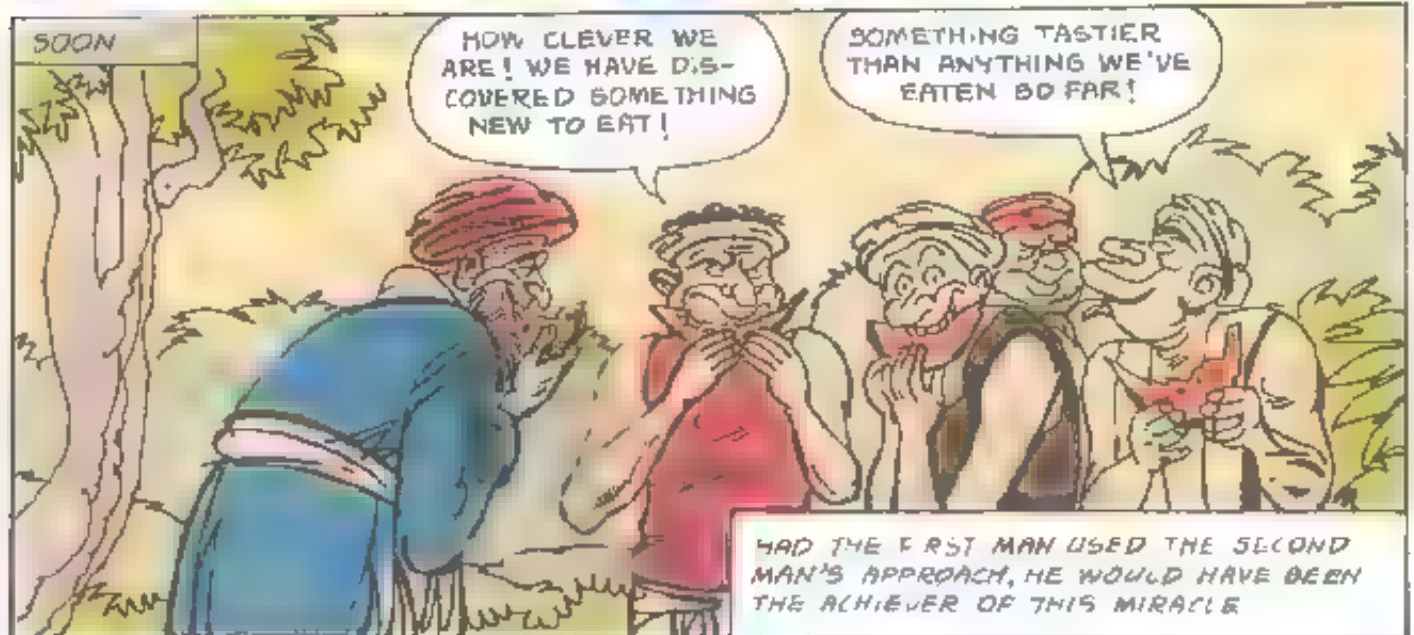
LET ME TASTE  
IT TOO,  
SIR



SOON

HOW CLEVER WE  
ARE! WE HAVE DIS-  
COVERED SOMETHING  
NEW TO EAT!

SOMETHING TASTIER  
THAN ANYTHING WE'VE  
EATEN SO FAR!



HAD THE FIRST MAN USED THE SECOND  
MAN'S APPROACH, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN  
THE ACHIEVER OF THIS MIRACLE





## THE PERFECTIONIST

THERE WAS ONCE A CARPENTER WHO PRIDED HIMSELF ON THE QUALITY OF HIS WORK.

HMM-M. GOOD. BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH IT NEEDS IMPROVING. NOW LET ME SEE.



JUST THEN A MAN WALKED IN.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SIR?

MY WIFE HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH A CHILD

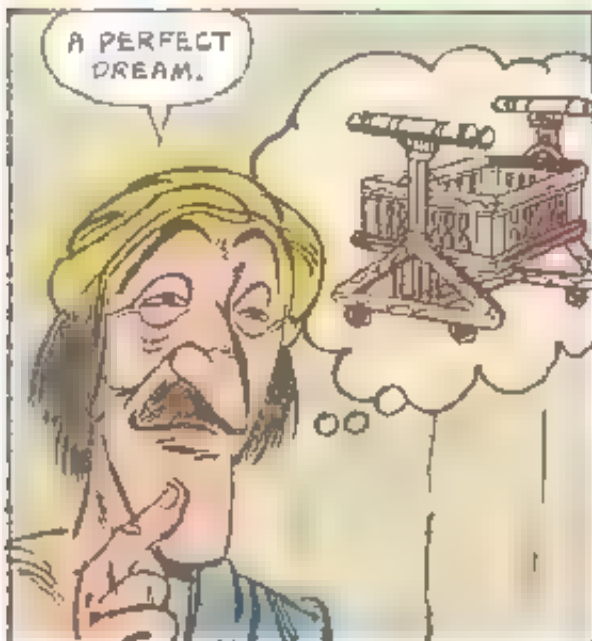


I NEED A CRADLE

YOU HAVE COME TO THE RIGHT MAN I'LL MAKE YOU THE BEST CRADLE YOU HAVE EVER SEEN



A PERFECT DREAM.

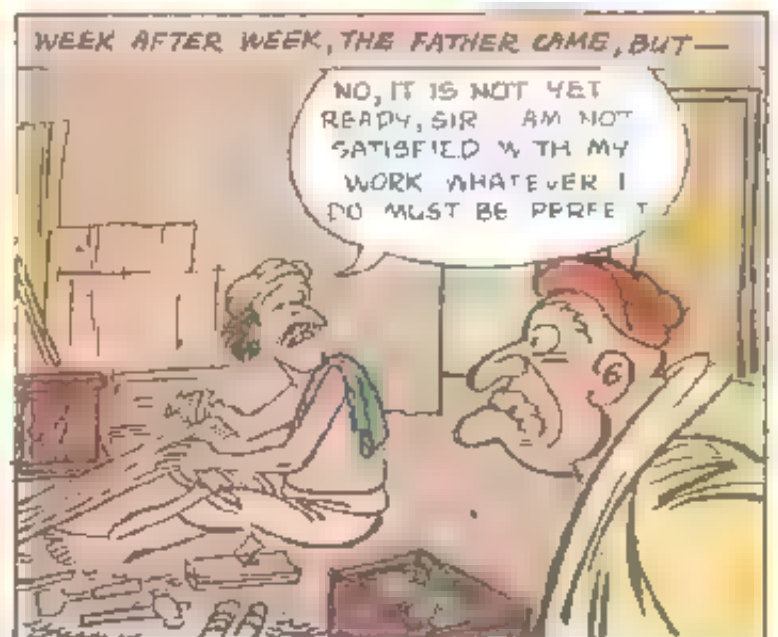


WHEN CAN I COME FOR IT?

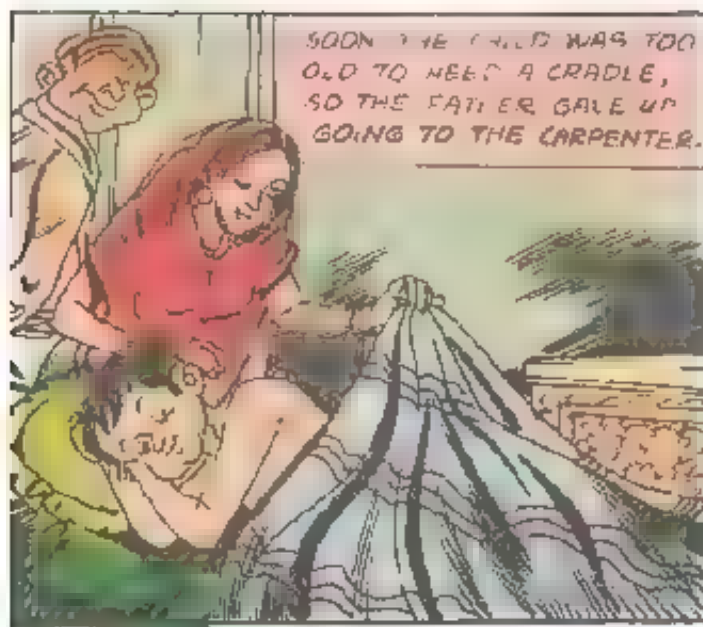
IT SHOULD BE READY IN A WEEK FROM NOW









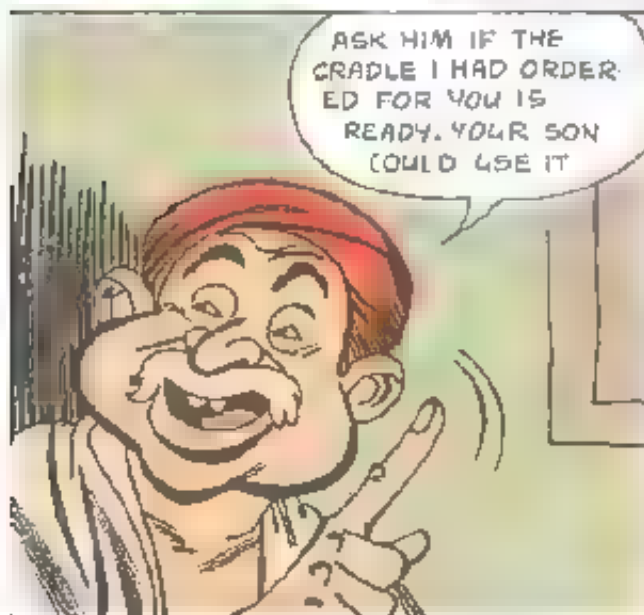


SOON THE CHILD WAS TOO OLD TO NEED A CRADLE, SO THE FATHER GAVE UP GOING TO THE CARPENTER.

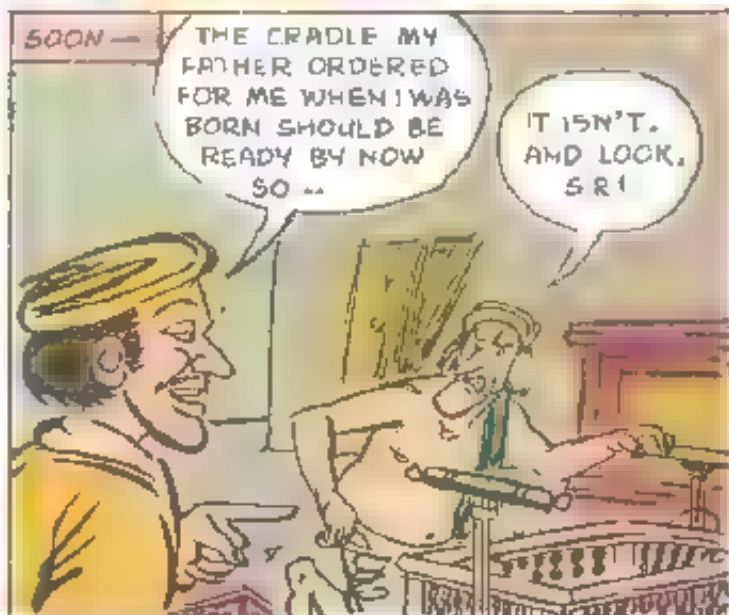


BY AND BY THE BOY GREW UP, GOT MARRIED AND IN HIS TURN BECAME THE PROUD FATHER OF A CHILD

GO TO OUR CARPENTER, TODAY



ASK HIM IF THE CRADLE I HAD ORDERED FOR YOU IS READY. YOUR SON COULD USE IT



SOON —

THE CRADLE MY FATHER ORDERED FOR ME WHEN I WAS BORN SHOULD BE READY BY NOW SO —

IT ISN'T. AND LOOK, SIR!



LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR. TAKE PRIDE IN MY WORK.



AND I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU OR YOUR FATHER TO RUSH ME

THE YOUNG MAN WAS ABOUT TO PROTEST BUT REALISED IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO ARGUE WITH THE PERFECTIONIST, SO HE QUIETLY LEFT THE PLACE.





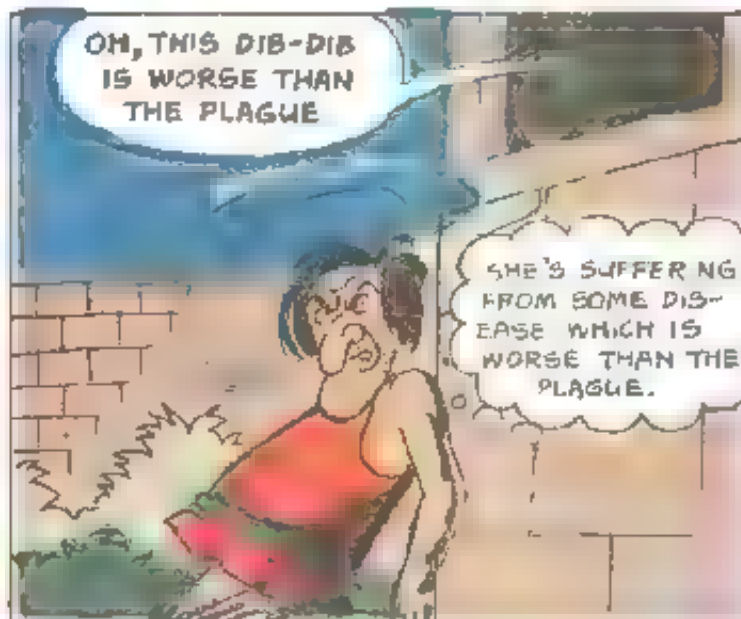
# THE THIEF, THE OLD WOMAN AND THE PRIEST

A THIEF ONCE CAME TO THE  
HOUSE OF AN OLD WOMAN  
TO SEE WHAT HE COULD  
STEAL



SHE'S STILL  
AWAKE  
SHE'S MOANING!

OOOOO  
AAAAA! WILL  
NEVER BE  
RID OF IT?



OH, THIS DIB-DIB  
IS WORSE THAN  
THE PLAGUE

SHE'S SUFFERING  
FROM SOME DIS-  
EASE WHICH IS  
WORSE THAN THE  
PLAGUE.



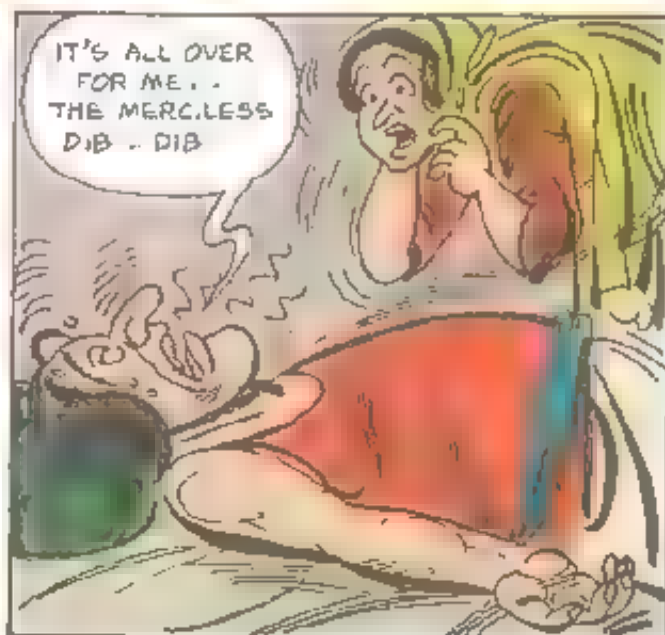
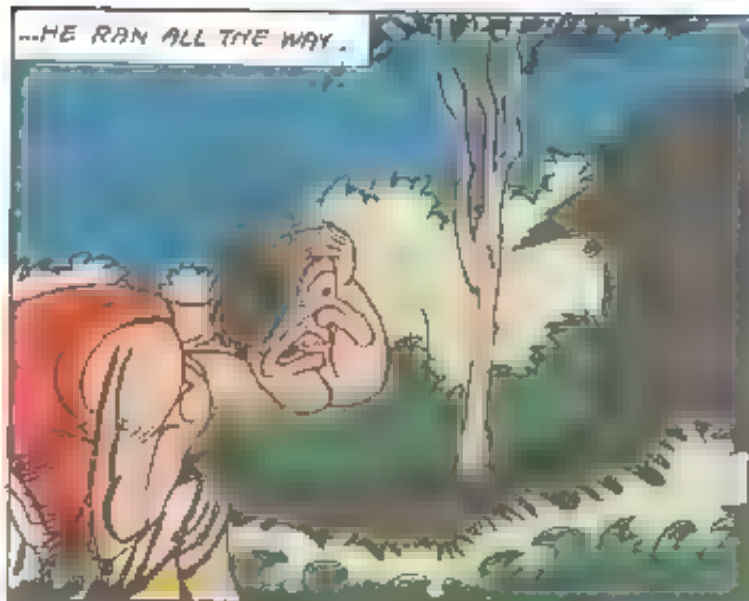
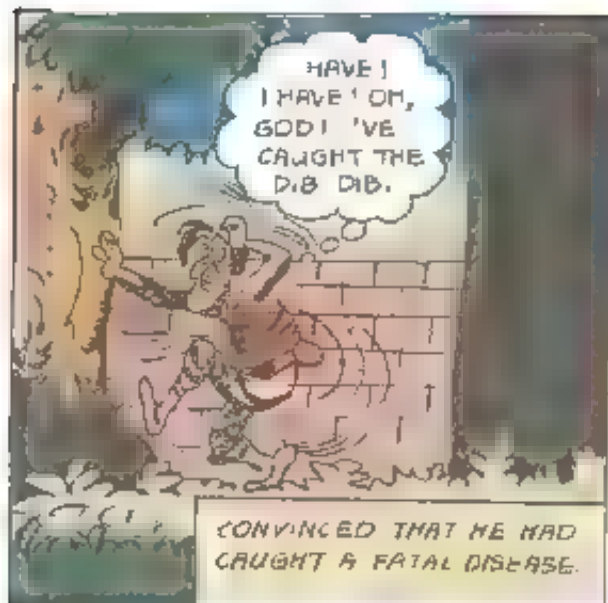
IT WILL BE THE  
DEATH OF ME!  
OH! THIS  
DIB-DIB!

OH, GOD!  
AND I'VE BEEN  
BREATHING  
THE AIR  
OUTSIDE  
HER ROOM!



I'M  
DIB-DIB!  
I'M  
DIB-DIB!  
I'M  
DIB-DIB!



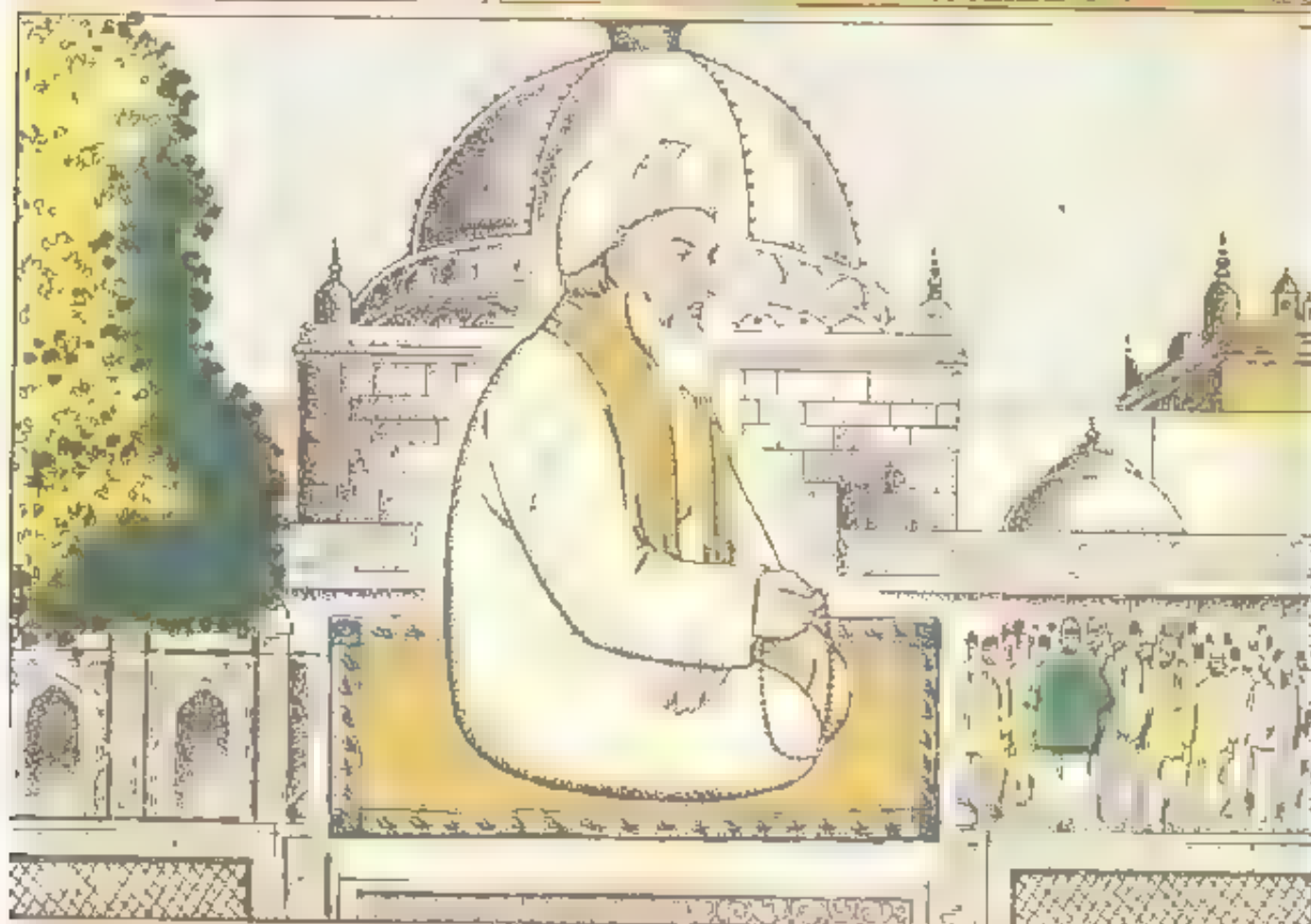




# SUFI SAINTS OF INDIA

Script - Swarn Khandpur  
Illustrations S K Parab

THE SUFIS WERE SAINTS OR MYSTICS OF PERSIA WHO FORMED THEMSELVES INTO SEVERAL ORDERS AND SPREAD OUT TO DISTANT LANDS. SOME OF THEM LIVED AS HOUSEHOLDERS.



KHWAJA MUINUDDIN OF THE CHISHTI ORDER CAME TO INDIA IN THE 12TH CENTURY AND SETTLED DOWN AT AJMER. HIS PIETY AND HUMILITY ENDEARED HIM TO HINDUS AND MUSLIMS ALIKE. THEY AFFECTIONATELY CALLED HIM GARIB NAWAZ (ONE WHO CHERISHES THE HUMBLE). HIS TOMB HAS BECOME A PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE FOR HIS FOLLOWING ALL OVER THE WORLD.





AFTER HIS SACK OF DELHI IN 1398, TIMUR WAS RETURNING HOME TO SAMARKAND, LADEN WITH GOLD AND RICHES. SUDDENLY AT A PLACE IN PUNJAB, THE CARAVAN STOPPED.

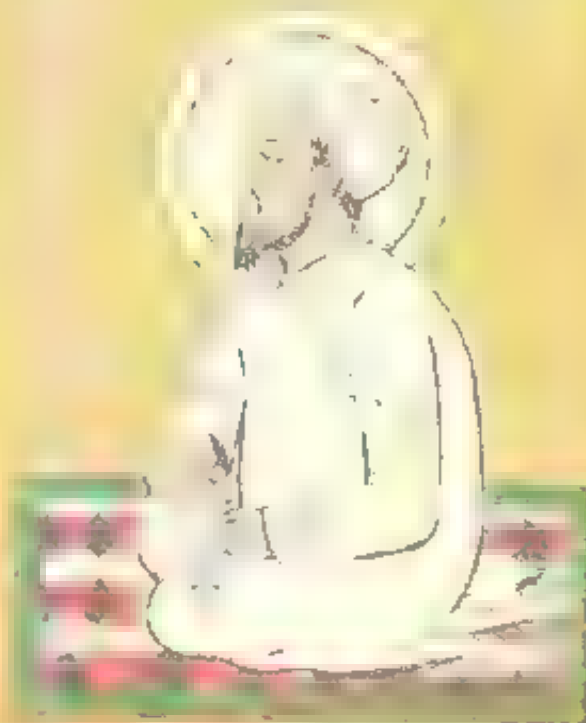
THE HORSES REFUSED TO MOVE. TIMUR BECAME FURIOUS. WHEN TOLD THAT THE PLACE WAS SANCTIFIED, TIMUR ROARED,

"BY WHOM?"

A VOICE ANSWERED: "BABA FARID, THE KING OF KINGS."

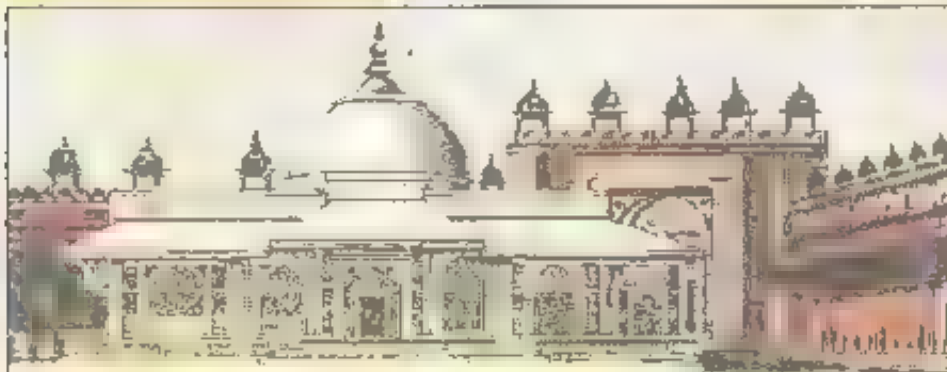
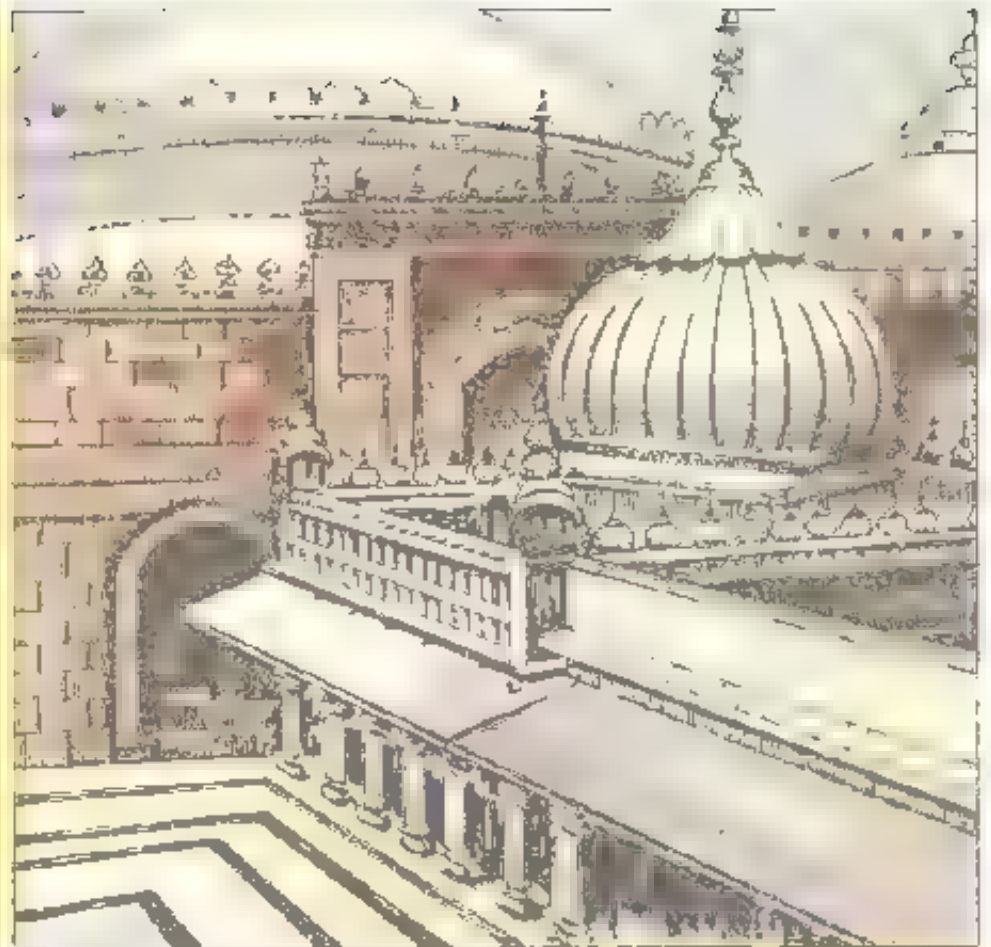
TIMUR, THE STORY GOES, BOWED TO THE MEMORY OF THE SAINT AND SPENT THE NIGHT AT THE DURGHAH (TOMB) OF BABA FARID.

BABA FARID THE MYSTIC WAS POPULARLY KNOWN AS GANJ -SHAKAR (TREASURER OF SWEETNESS). IT IS SAID THAT AS A CHILD HE WOULD GET SOME SUGAR FROM HIS MOTHER AFTER EVERY PRAYER. ONE DAY SHE FORGOT TO PUT IT UNDER THE PRAYER MAT BUT BY SOME DIVINE POWER, SUGAR DID APPEAR WHEN FARID TURNED TO TAKE HIS REWARD! HIS HYMNS ARE INCLUDED IN THE GRANTH SAHIB, THE HOLY BOOK OF THE SIKHS. "DO NOT GIVE ME SCISSORS," HE WOULD SAY. "GIVE ME A NEEDLE. I SEW, I DO NOT CUT."



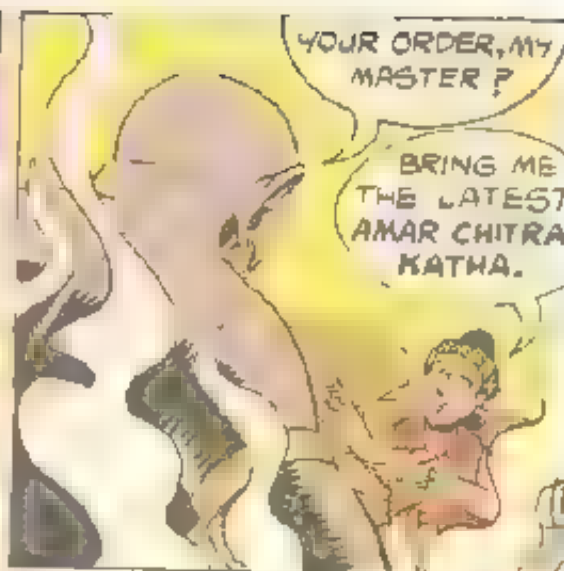
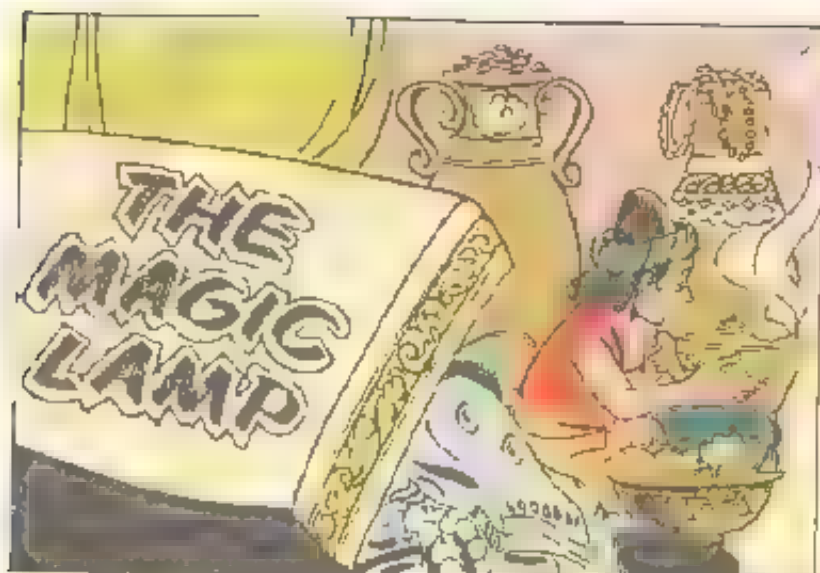



ANGHEERF T  
 NAG  
 HALL AT  
 ALIYA WHO  
 SETTLED IN  
 DELHI AND SPENT  
 HIS LIFE IN  
 THE SERVICE  
 OF GOD AND  
 HIS CREATURES  
 AROUND HIS  
 TOMB HAS  
 GROWN A  
 SETTLEMENT  
 POPULARLY  
 REFERRED TO AS  
 "SUFİ BASTI".



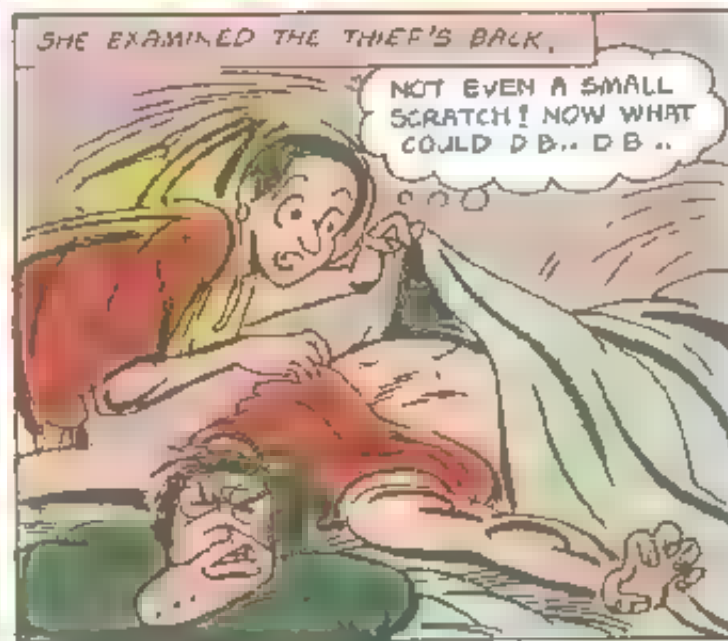
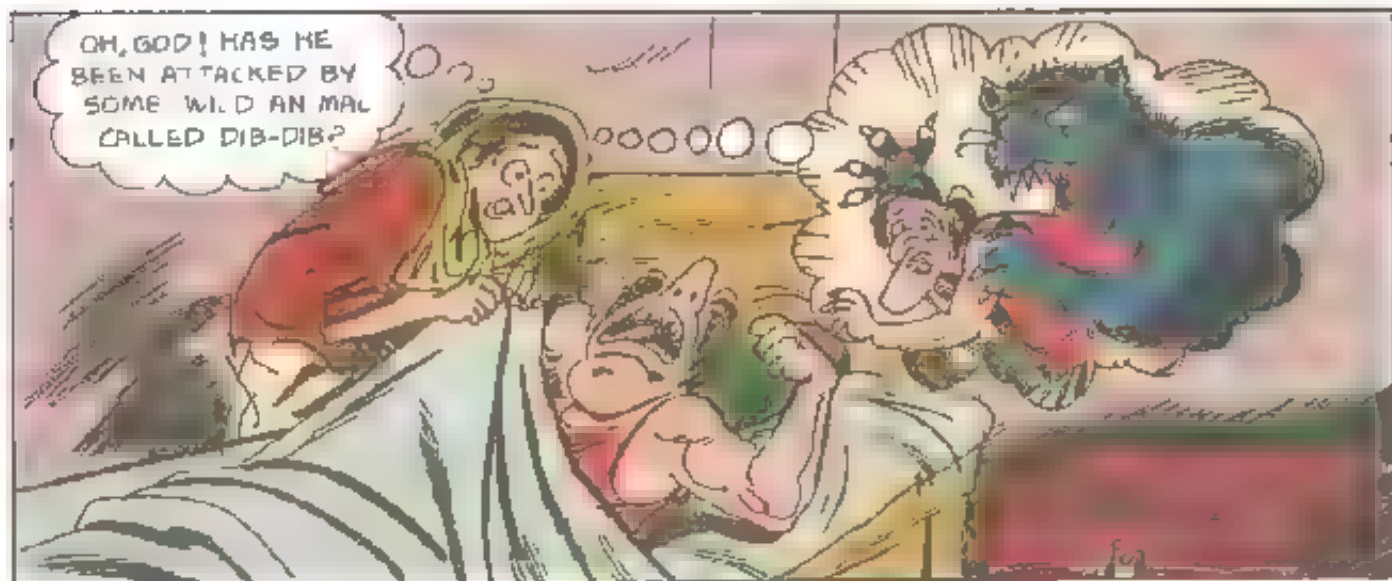
SHEIKH SALIM  
 CHISHTI, A SUFI  
 SAINT OF EMPEROR  
 AKBAR'S TIME,  
 HAD SETTLED  
 DOWN AT SIKRI  
 NEAR AGRA. IT  
 WAS WITH HIS  
 BLESSINGS THAT A  
 SON WAS AT LAST  
 BORN TO AKBAR.  
 THE CHILD, NAMED  
 SALIM AFTER THE  
 SAINT, LATER  
 BECAME EMPEROR  
 JAHANGIR.  
 AKBAR BUILT A  
 MARBLE TOMB FOR  
 THE SAINT AT  
 FATEHPUR SIKRI.





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SHE RAN ALL THE WAY TO THE HOUSE OF THE LOCAL PRIEST.



WHEN THAT SAVANT SAW HER APPROACHING HIS HOUSE —

WONDER WHAT THE WIFE OF THAT THIEF COULD WANT AT THIS TIME OF THE NIGHT!



HE SOON KNEW.

O HOLY SIR! MY HUSBAND IS POSSESSED BY A SPIRIT! PLEASE COME AND SEE HIM



THIS IS WHAT I'M HERE FOR AREN'T I? WHATEVER THE HOUR I MUST GO

DON'T ASK ME TO WAIT TILL MORNING, SIR.



IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE

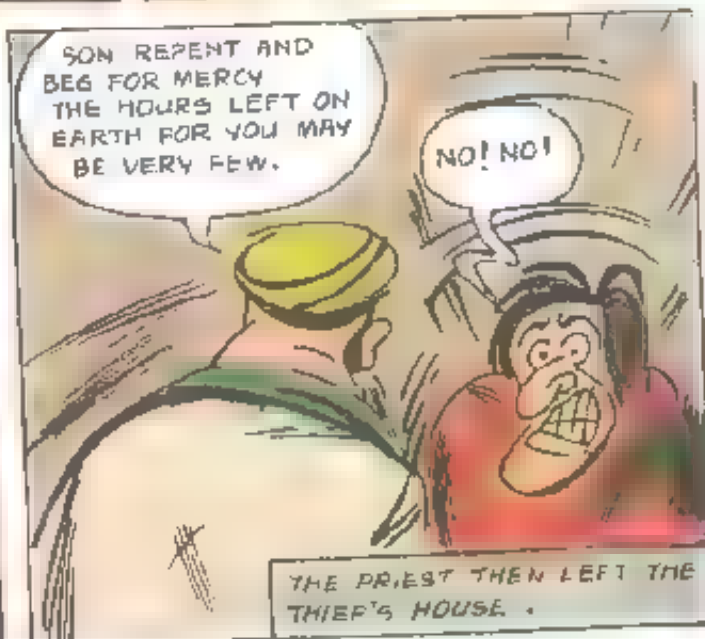
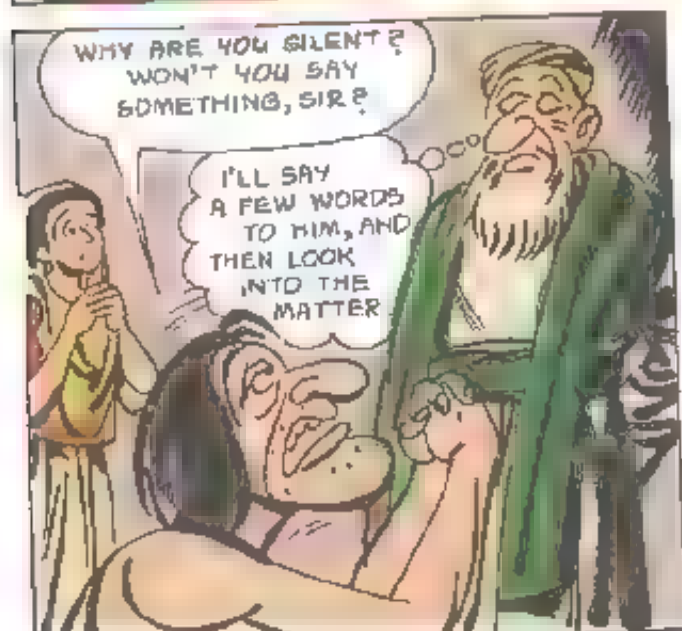
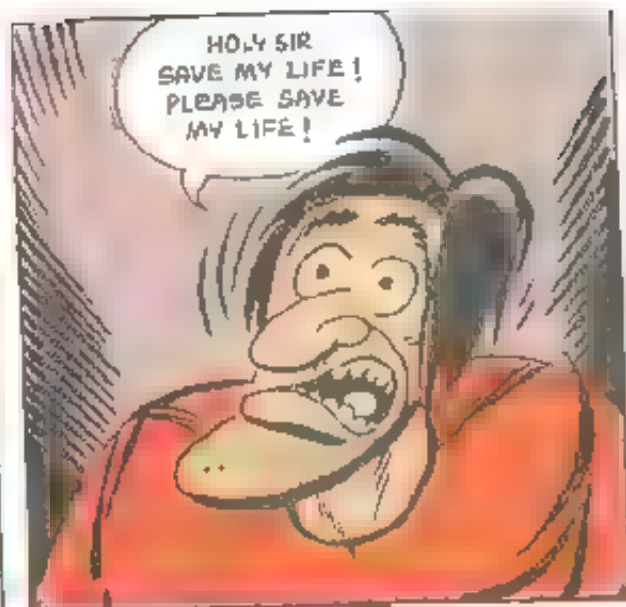
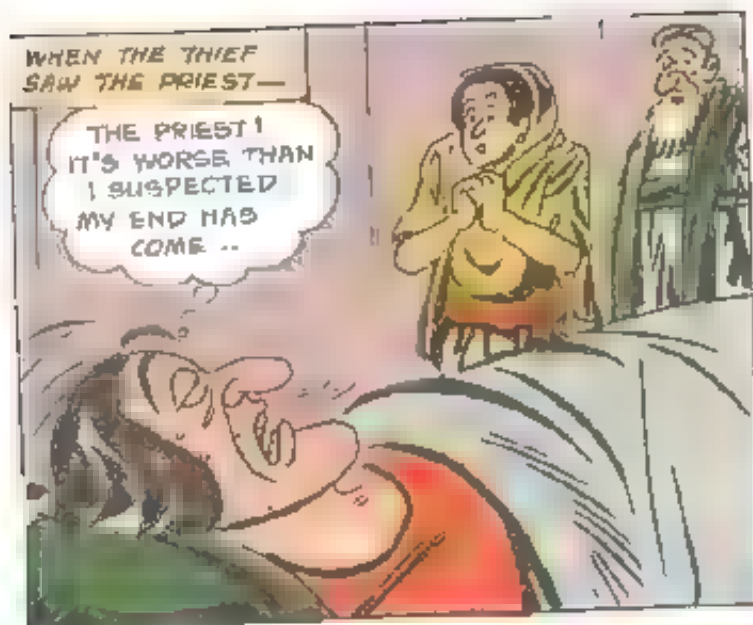
DID I SAY I WOULDN'T COME & LEAD ME TO YOUR HOUSE!



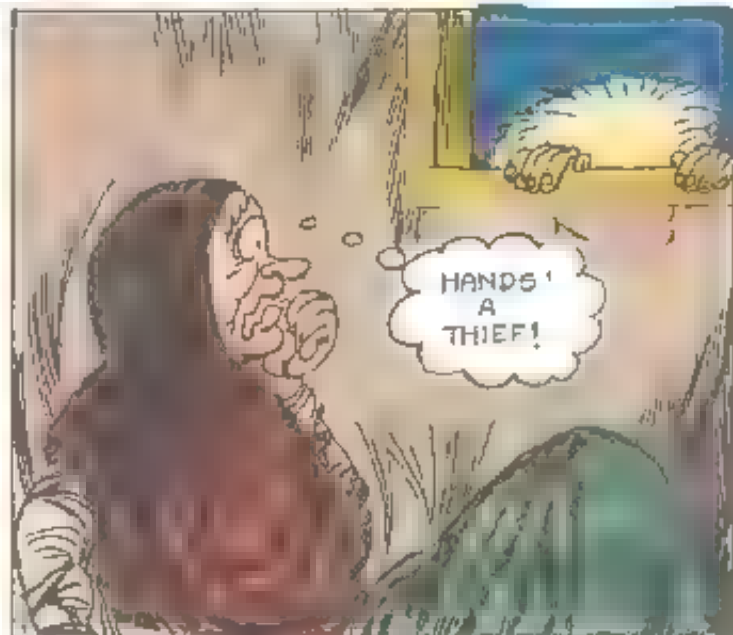
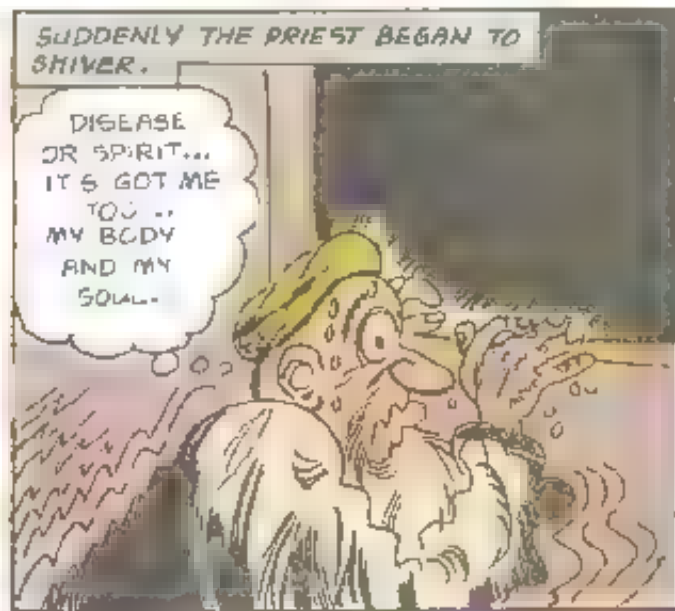
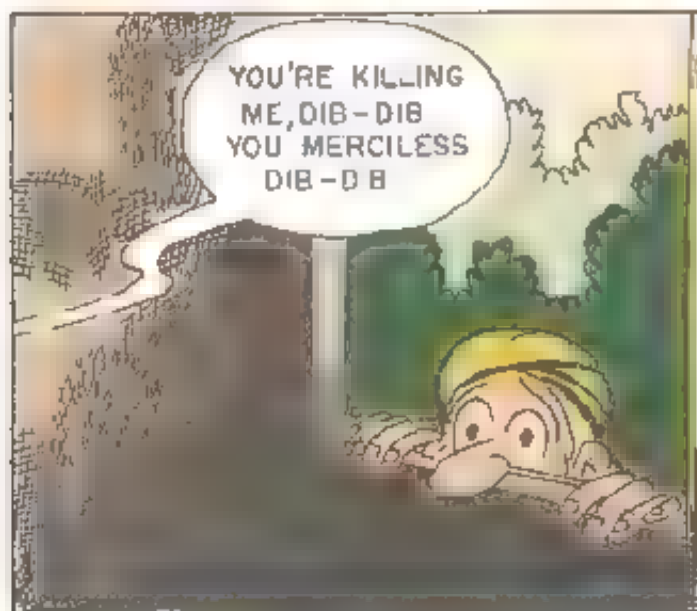
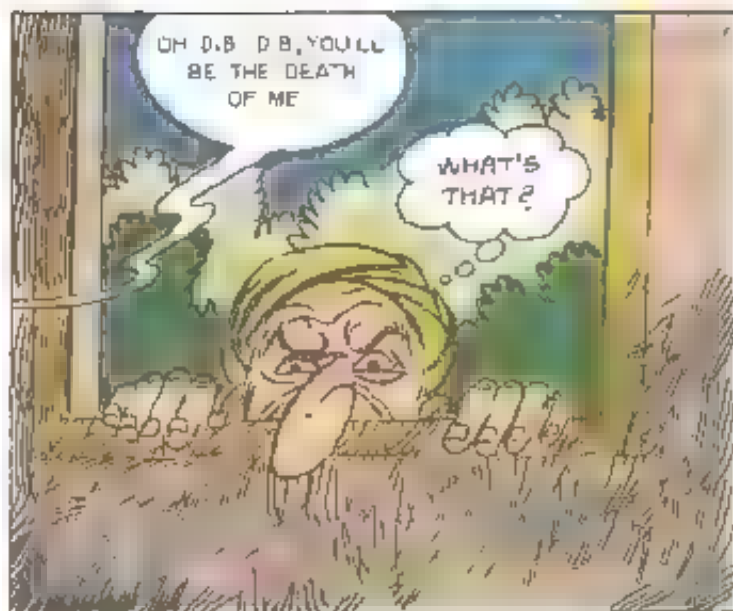
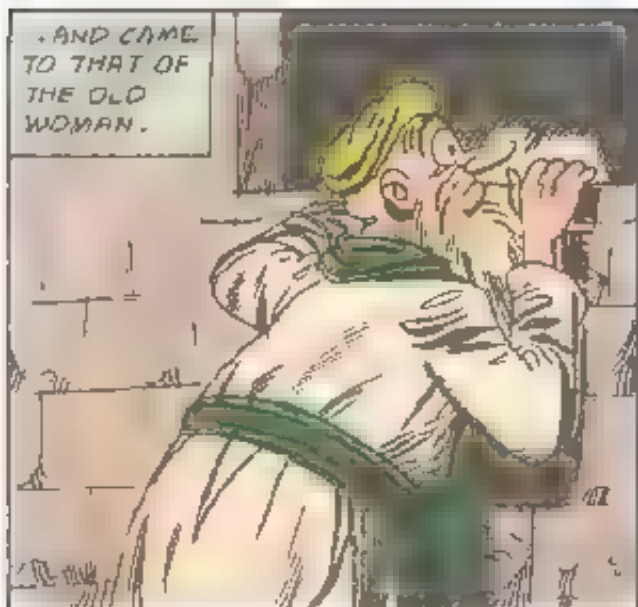
AND SO —

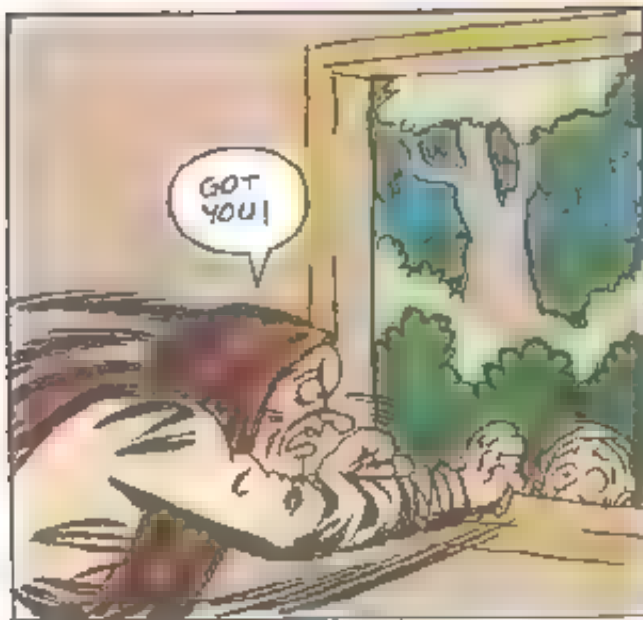
AH, MY HUSBAND! YOU WILL SOON BE RID OF DIB D.B.



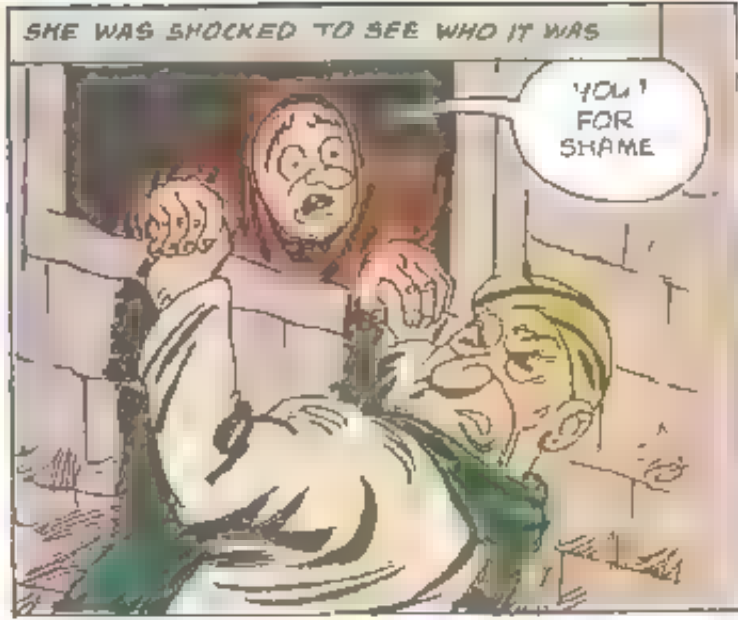








GOT  
YOU!

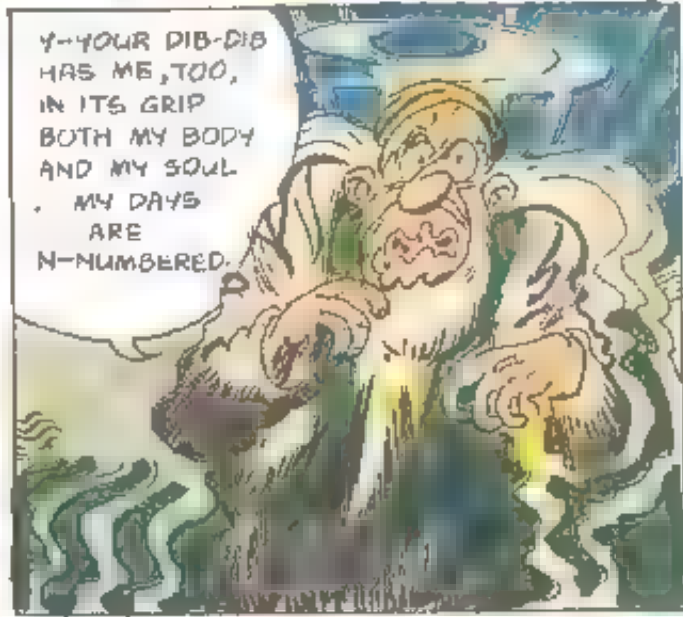


SHE WAS SHOCKED TO SEE WHO IT WAS

YOU!  
FOR  
SHAME



WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING OUTSIDE  
MY WINDOW AT  
THIS TIME OF  
THE NIGHT?



Y-YOUR DIB-DIB  
HAS ME, TOO,  
IN ITS GRIP  
BOTH MY BODY  
AND MY SOUL  
MY DAYS  
ARE  
N-NUMBERED.

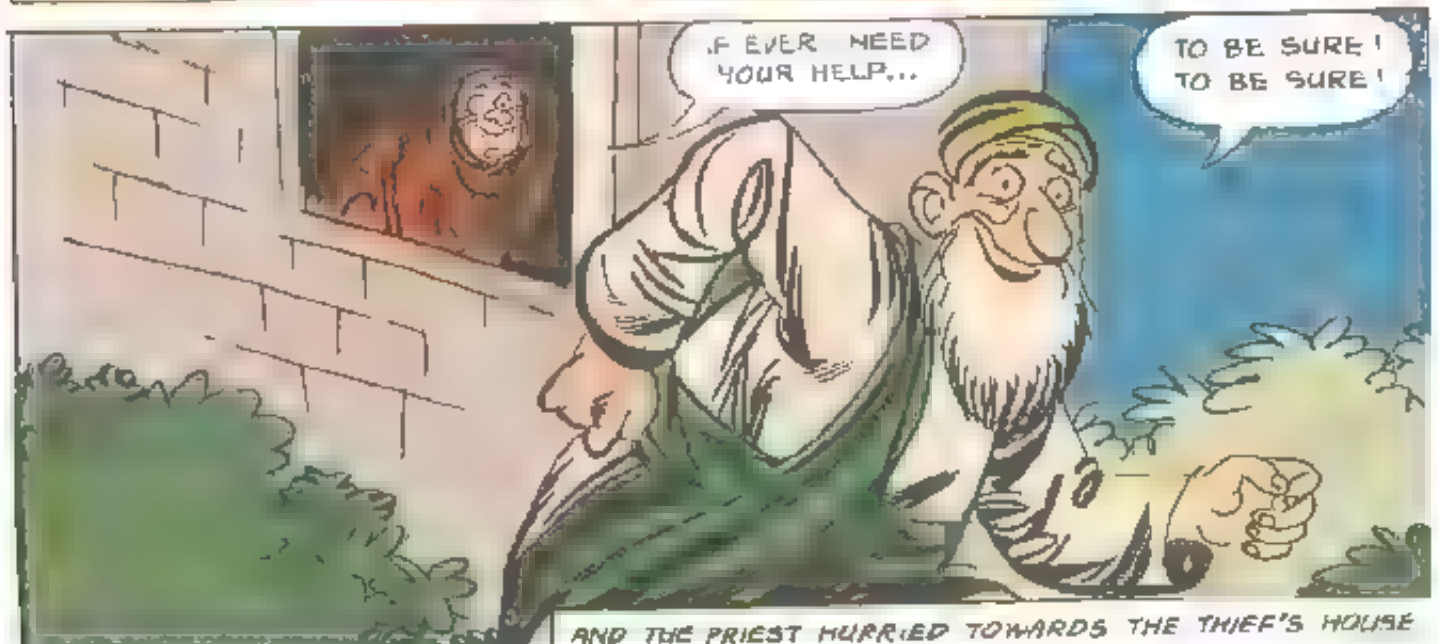
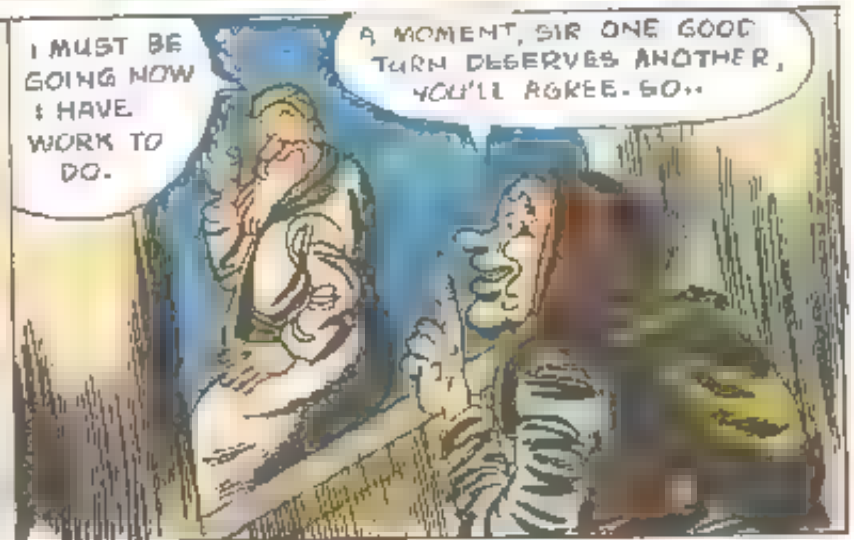


OH, YOU FOOL! YOU  
HEAR ME WH- ABOUT  
DIB-DIB AND YOU  
M-AGINE ALL SORTS  
OF THINGS PAH!



AND TO THINK  
I REVERED YOU  
ALL THESE YEARS!  
PAH! IF YOU WANT  
TO KNOW WHAT  
DIB-DIB REALLY IS,  
STOP THAT SHIVER-  
ING AND LOOK IN  
HERE.

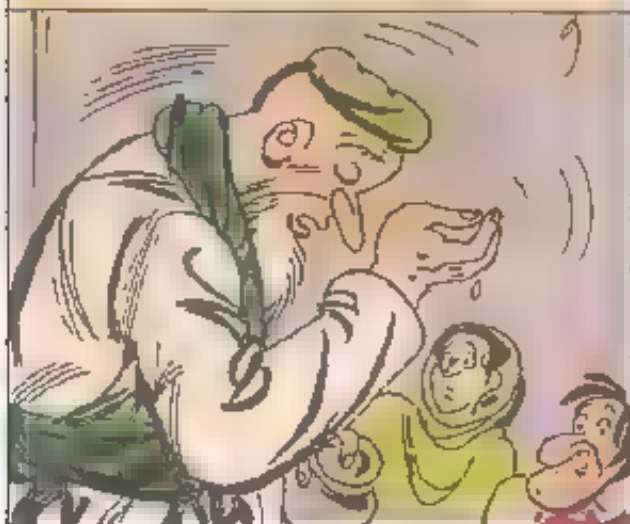








THE PRIEST MUMBLED SOME WORDS OVER THE WATER IN HIS HAND.



NOW PROMISE ME YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN STEAL

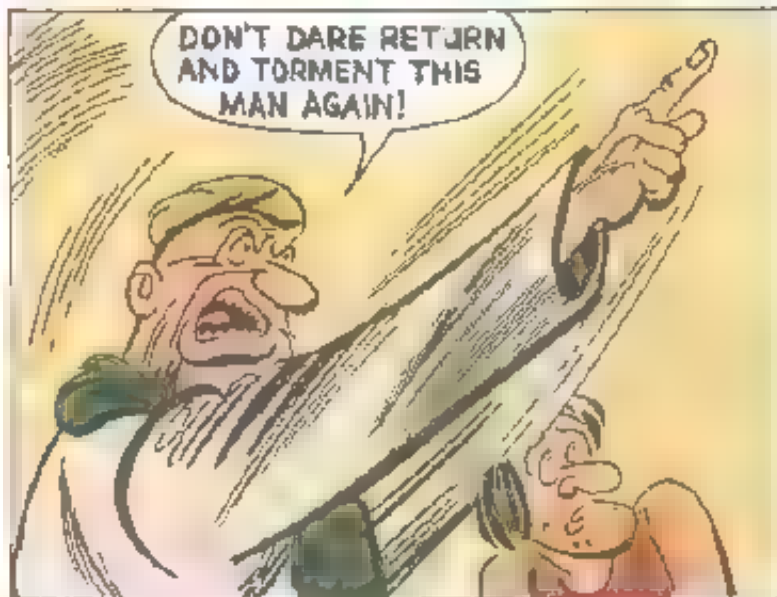
PROMISE!



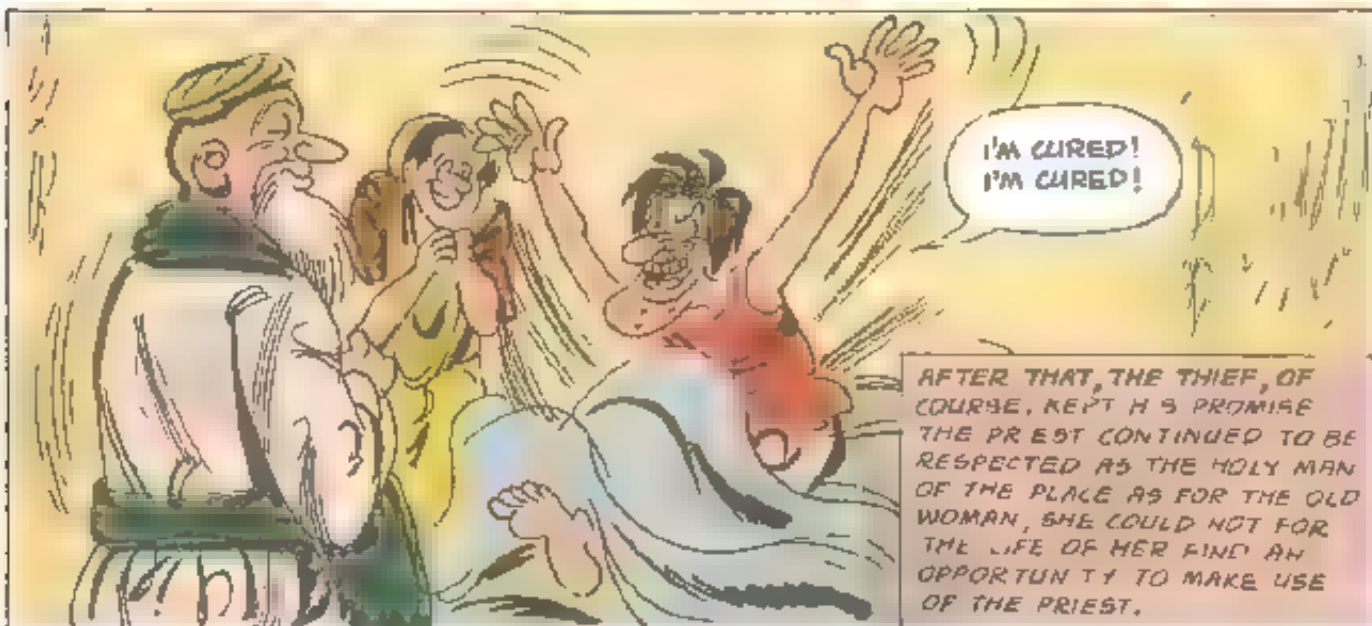
AWAY, DIB DIB!  
I SAID  
AWAY!



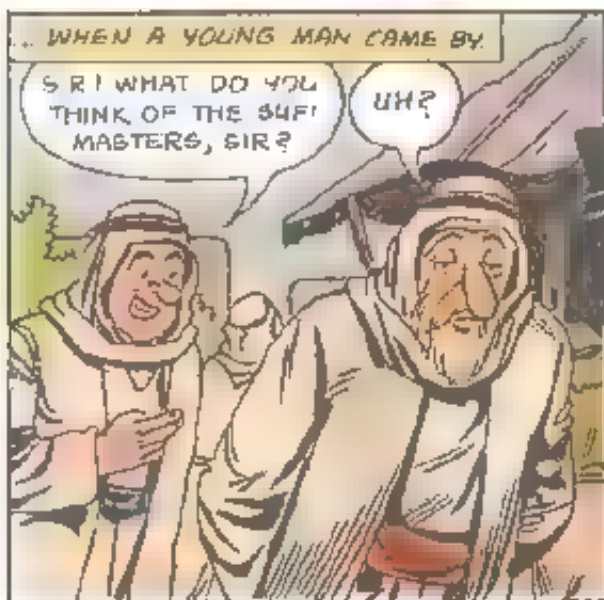
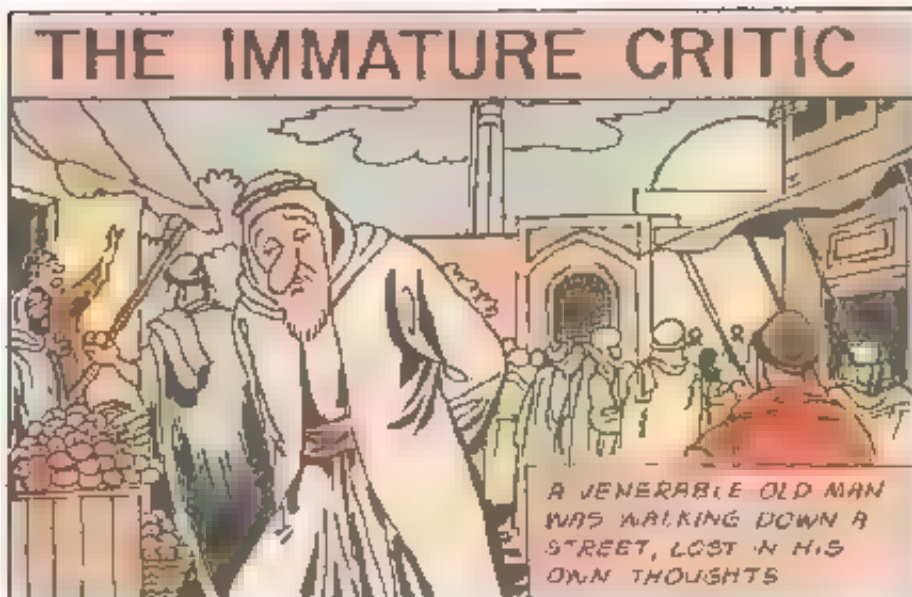
DON'T DARE RETURN  
AND TORMENT THIS  
MAN AGAIN!



I'M CURED!  
I'M CURED!

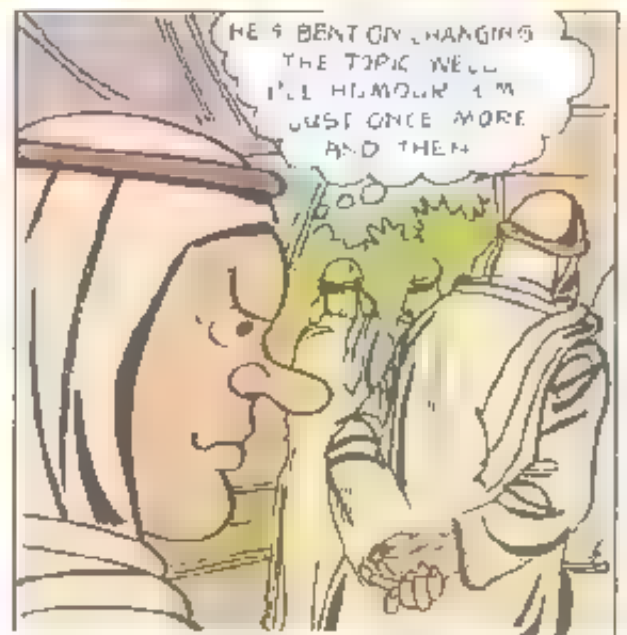
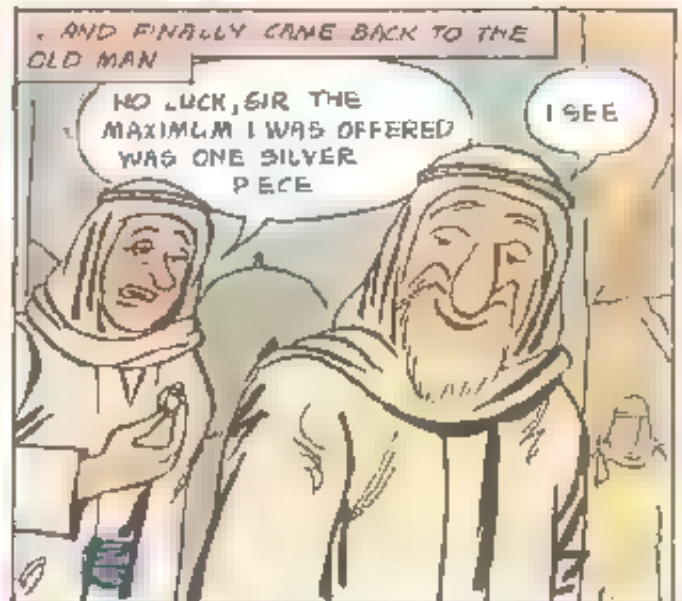
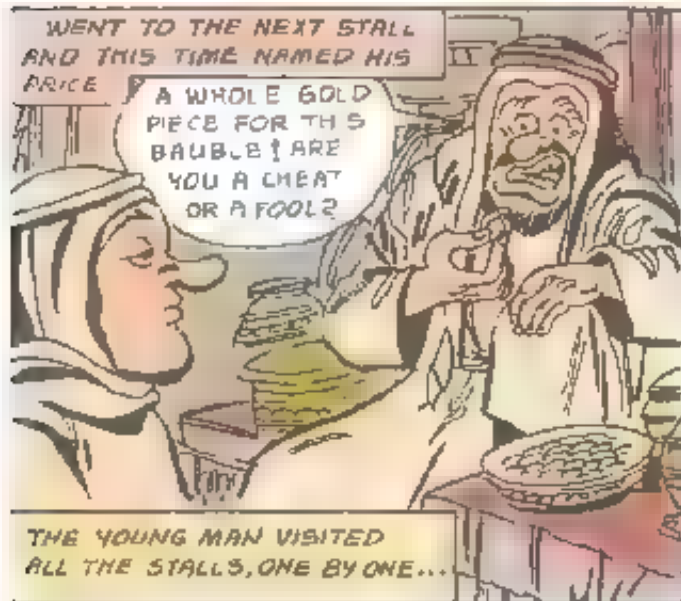
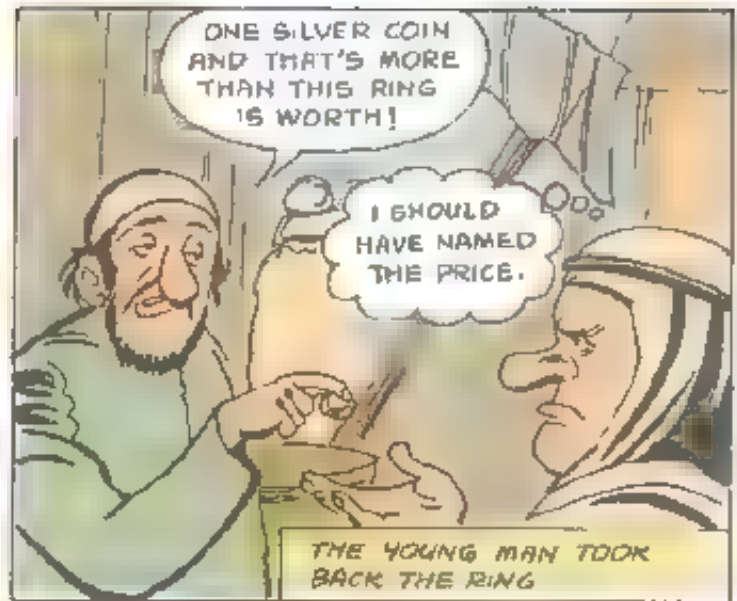


AFTER THAT, THE THIEF, OF COURSE, KEPT HIS PROMISE. THE PRIEST CONTINUED TO BE RESPECTED AS THE HOLY MAN OF THE PLACE. AS FOR THE OLD WOMAN, SHE COULD NOT FOR THE LIFE OF HER FINE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE USE OF THE PRIEST.

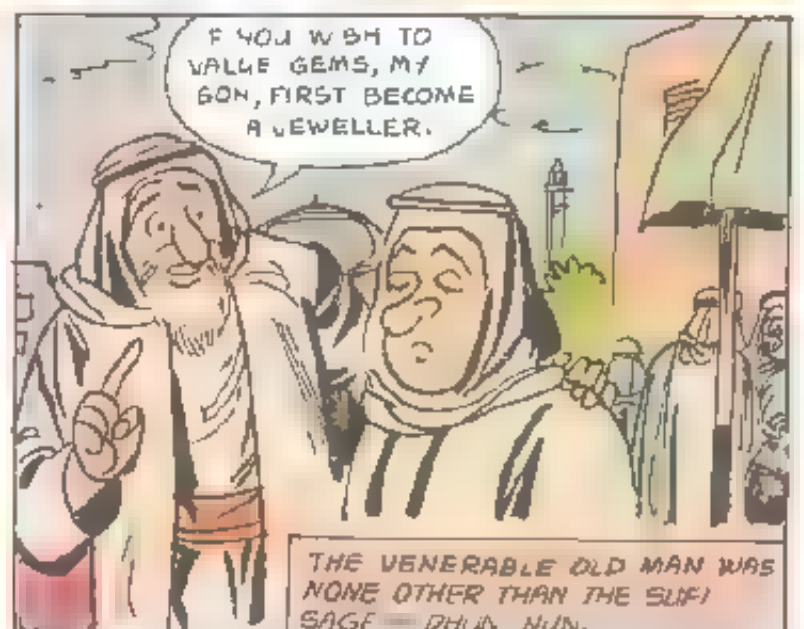
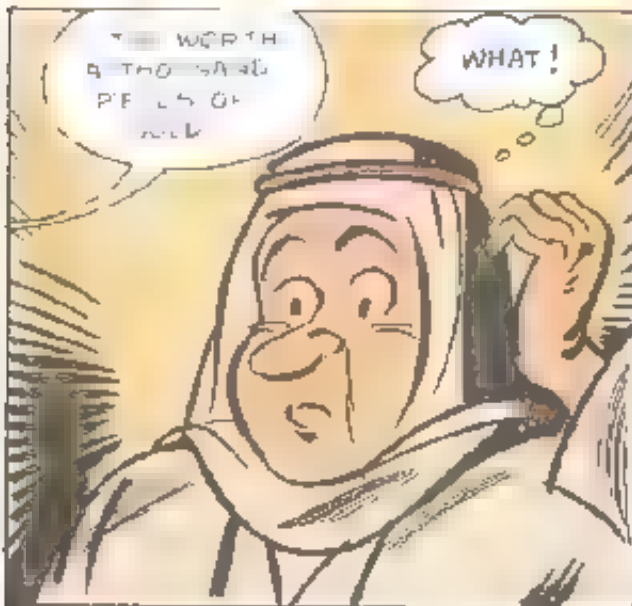
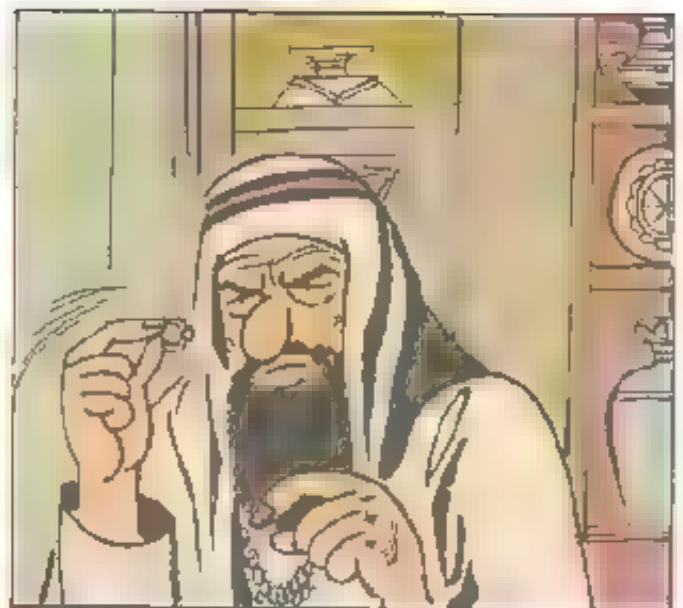








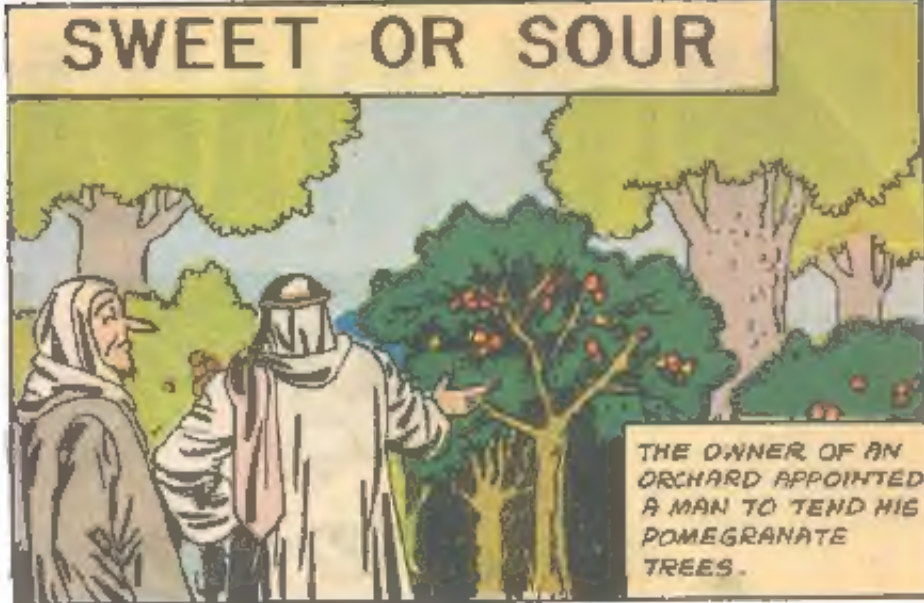








## SWEET OR SOUR



THE OWNER OF AN ORCHARD APPOINTED A MAN TO TEND HIS POMEGRANATE TREES.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, AS HE WAS WALKING THROUGH HIS ORCHARD —

I'M THIRSTY. GIVE ME ONE OF THOSE POMEGRANATES.



THE MAN PLUCKED A FRUIT AND GAVE IT TO HIM.

HERE YOU ARE, SIR.



WHEN THE OWNER BEGAN TO EAT IT —

UGH! IT'S SOUR. GIVE ME ANOTHER.



BUT THE NEXT ONE WAS EVEN MORE SOUR.

AFTER TASTING AND REJECTING SEVERAL, THE OWNER LOST HIS TEMPER.

YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING HERE FOR MONTHS NOW. CAN'T YOU TELL WHICH OF THE POMEGRANATES IS SWEET!

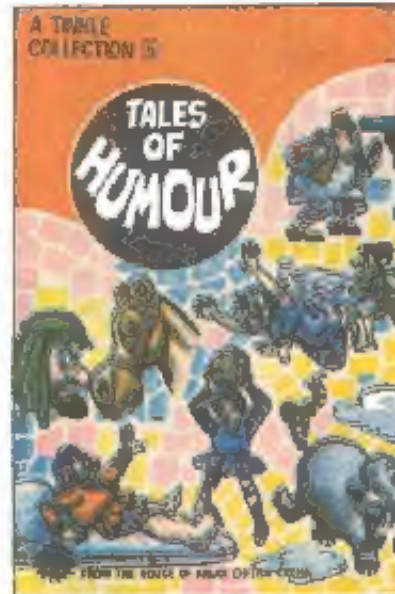
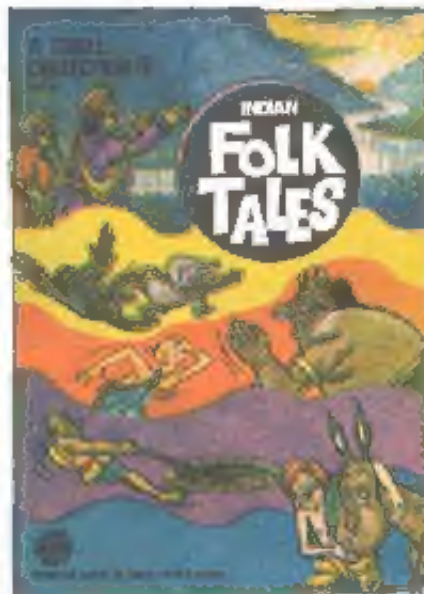
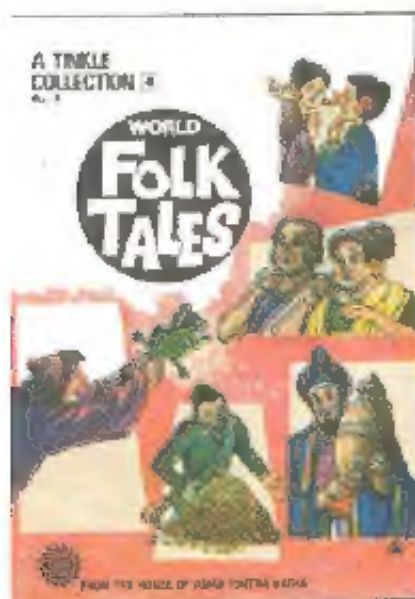


I AM SORRY, SIR. I WAS APPOINTED TO TEND THE TREES, SIR... NOT TASTE THE FRUIT!





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